

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07064 091146Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

S E C R E T TEHRAN 7064

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: RH, PDEV, ENRG, IR
SUBJ: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO SHAH

REF: STATE 185990 (NOTAL)

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL, BRITISH
AMBASSADOR AND I HAD JOINT AUDIENCE WITH SHAH AT RAMSAR
MORNING AUGUST 9 TO DISCUSS RHODESIA. MY BRITISH
COLLEAGUE MADE SUCCINCT BUT DETAILED ORAL PRESENTATION
OF TALKING POINTS, TO WHICH SHAH LISTENED ATTENTIVELY.

2. IN REPLY SHAH SAID WE COULD REPORT TO SECRETARIES
VANCE AND OWEN THAT HE SUPPORTS THE UK-US PROPOSALS. HE
WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE CONSIDERS THIS COURSE OF ACTION
THE ONLY POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM. HE
SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING, IF THE TWO SECRETARIES THOUGHT
IT DESIRABLE, TO MAKE HIS VIEWS KNOWN TO BOTH
THROUGH THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVE IN TEHRAN.

3. HE INDICATED THAT PRIME MINISTER VORSTER HAD PROPOSED
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COMING TO TEHRAN, BUT THE SHAH HAD PUT HIM OFF. IF THE
UK AND US THOUGHT IT WOULD HELP FOR HIM TO HAVE A PERSONAL
INTERCESSION WITH VORSTER, HE WOULD ALSO BE WILLING
TO REACTIVATE THE PROPOSALS FOR THAT VISIT.

4. SHAH AGREED THAT AN "INTERNAL" SOLUTION, WITH BLACK
REPRESENTATIVES OF SMITH'S OWN CHOOSING, WOULD BE DOOMED

BEFORE IT BEGAN BECAUSE IT WOULD NEVER BE ACCEPTED BY WORLD
OPINION. HE SEEMED TO HAVE SOME DOUBTS ABOUT UK-UK-UN
ABILITY TO KEEP THE GUERRILLAS UNDER CONTROL, BUT FELT
THE EFFORT HAD TO BE MADE.

5. IN COMMENTING ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT WORLD-WIDE
PRESSURE MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO BRING SOUTH AFRICA INTO LINE,
THE SHAH SAID THAT HE FELT IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT
THE FRENCH (AS ARMS SUPPLIERS) BE BROUGHT ALONG AND THAT
SECRETARIES VANCE AND OWEN SHOULD BE ABLE TO TELL BOTH
THAT FRANCE FULLY SUPPORTS THE UK-US EFFORT. THE BRITISH
AMBASSADOR ASSURED HIM THAT PARIS WAS ABOARD. (FYI. I
HAVE NO RPT NO CABLES INFORMING ME OF STATE OF PLAY WITH
FRENCH OR OTHER "CLOSEST FRIENDS" AND WOULD APPRECIATE
LEARNING THEIR IDENTITY.)

6. FINALLY, SHAH RECONFIRMED IRANIAN WILLINGNESS TO
CONTRIBUTE TO A UN DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR RHODESIA AND,
IF NECESSARY, TO TAKE WHITE REFUGEES INTO IRAN FOR
RESETTLEMENT. HE SAID THEY COULD NOT BUY LAND HERE BUT
WOULD BE ALLOWED TO LEASE IT FOR "SAY, TWENTY-FIVE YEARS."
OTHER SKILLS COULD ALSO BE ACCOMMODATED AS IMMIGRANTS.

7. BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND I THANKED SHAH FOR HIS SUPPORT
AND ASSURED HIM THAT WE WOULD KEEP HIM INFORMED OF OUTCOME
AUGUST 12 MEETING. SHAH ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN LEARNING
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RESULTS OF AUGUST 13 MEETING SCHEDULED WITH NYERERE, AS WELL
AS ANY OTHER INDICATIONS OF NYERERE'S VIEWS GLEANED FROM
HIS US VISIT.
SULLIVAN

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